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**Title:** Professor Tadeusz Lewowicki - doctor honoris causa of the University of Opole

**Author:** Andrzej Radziewicz-Winnicki

**Citation style:** Radziewicz-Winnicki Andrzej. (2004). Professor Tadeusz Lewowicki - doctor honoris causa of the University of Opole. "The New Educational Review" (2004, no. 2, s. 195-198).



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Andrzej Radziewicz- Winnicki  
Professor of Social Pedagogy  
and Sociology of Education  
Institute of Pedagogy University  
of Silesia  
Katowice, Poland

## New Educational Review

### **Professor Tadeusz Lewowicki - doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Opole**

We would like to inform you that on 22 April 2004 Rector Magnificus together with the Senate of the University of Opole will award an honorary doctorate to two eminent professors representing educational sciences in Poland: professor **Tadeusz Lewowicki** and professor **Zbigniew Kwiecinski**. In this quarterly journal we would like to tell our readers a few words about the two Professors.

For years Professor Tadeusz Lewowicki has been associated with the most eminent representatives of educational sciences in our country. Among many professors identified with Polish pedagogy, only a few have made their names in the institutional and progressive development of science not only in Poland but also in the world in the last three or four decades. Professor Lewowicki has a lot of merits and creative achievements despite his being relatively young, although a certain image of a scientist being, as a rule, a person advanced in years is a commonplace opinion in our country. Professor Lewowicki combines unmatched virtues of intellect with great ethical sensitivity, conscientiousness and particular responsibility. The above-mentioned virtues have been acknowledged in our environment for many years now. The harmony of conduct with his assumed system of values as well as characteristic adherence to principles in his resolutions of institutional importance, in which Professor is able to *liberate himself from any private interpersonal relationships*, command general approbation and respect. He is an exceptional personality, whose significance is not limited to rich and momentous scientific or organisational creativity. As a scientist, Professor Lewowicki has become a paragon of personality which is commonly recommended as an example to be followed.

Professor Lewowicki was born in Nagorzanka on 2 July 1942. He studied pedagogy at the University of Warsaw, where he has been working as a lecturer

since 1968. He has had a number of organisational functions, among others, deputy dean for the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology (1977-1979), and then during consecutive tenures he was deputy dean for the new organisational unit, ie the Pedagogical Department of the University of Warsaw (1979-1981). For many years he has been holding a prestigious function of Head of the Chair of Didactics of the University of Warsaw taking over this organisational unit from such scientists as professors Wincenty Okori and Czesław Kupisiewicz. In 1972 he was conferred PhD in arts and in 1977 he was conferred a postdoctoral degree. It is noteworthy that in the period when he became an independent scientist, undoubtedly he belonged to the youngest scientists in Poland among all the representatives of humanities and social sciences. Professor Lewowicki was conferred the title of associate professor at the age of forty (1982) and a few years later he was awarded the title of full professor (1989).

Professor Lewowicki is a scholar of versatile theoretical-research interests. At first his research concerned diverse problems at the meeting point of pedagogy and psychology and with time it started to comprise broader and broader fields of interest within such subfields of study as philosophy of education, organization of the educational system, intercultural education, sociology of education, methodology of pedagogy, or educational policy. He has created his own characteristic rich and diverse field of activity, in which he included elements of numerous subfields of sociological sciences. I consider all his studies as strictly erudite ones. It would be difficult to find popular studies in his bibliography.

His scientific achievements comprise nearly 450 publications, including several books. Among the most important ones there are: *Psychological Individual Differences versus Pupils' Achievements* (Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne, Warsaw 1975; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition - 1977); *Individualization of Education. Differential Didactics* (Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warsaw 1977); *Education of Talented Pupils* (Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne, Warsaw 1980; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition - 1986); *Aspirations of Children and Youth* (Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warsaw 1987); *Process of Instruction at Higher Education Institutions* (Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warsaw 1988); *Changes in the School System* (Wydawnictwo "Zak," Warsaw 1994 - published four times up till now). At the same time, Professor Lewowicki is a co-author and editor of nearly 70 collective papers, including a series of papers devoted to multicultural questions and intercultural education.

Professor Lewowicki's numerous studies have appeared in collective papers and journals published in European countries and North America. They have been translated into many languages, among others, into English, Arabic, Czech, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Slovak, and Slovenian.

In the literature of the subject it is easy to find opinions drawing attention to the fact that all his research achievements differ from traditional pedagogical depictions, to mention only his basic achievements of innovative character.

During the period of 1981- 1985 he was associate director in the Institute of Scientific Politics and Higher Education and in 1985-1989 he was director of the Institute of Pedagogical Studies. In 1995-2002 he was President of the Higher Pedagogic School of the Polish Teachers' Association in Warsaw.

In recognition of his scientific merits, Professor Lewowicki was given numerous expert functions (among others, by the Parliament and the Ministry of Education). He was vice-chairman of the Expert Committee for Education, who published the significant report "Education as National Priority" in 1989.

In 1993 he voluntarily took the function of chairman of one of the most renowned institutions in the pedagogic community, which is the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Holding this function he gained esteem in all Polish higher education institutions and scientific centres conducting pedagogical research and also among representatives of other fields of science, especially among sociologists, historians and philosophers. Professor's acting towards stabilization and integration of pedagogic circles in the period of social change after 1989 is his great merit.

He has been supervising different scientific councils, eg since 1990 he has been chairman of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Educational Studies. In 1984 - 1994 he was editor-in-chief of the oldest Polish journal "Pedagogical Movement." It is noteworthy that in the mid-nineties this excellent pedagogical periodical stopped being published due to a lack of subsidy. The idea of reactivation of this journal appeared together with the establishment of the Higher Pedagogic School of the Polish Teachers' Association in Warsaw as an initiative of the then President, Professor Lewowicki. The decisions, favourable for all the pedagogic community, were made in 1997. He was and has been a member of the editorial councils of other known journals: "Pedagogical Quarterly," "Education," "Pedagogy of Higher Education School," "The New Educational Review" and others.

What is worth mentioning is the fact that for 16 years Professor Tadeusz Lewowicki has been elected by the pedagogic community to be a member of the Central Commission for Scientific Titles and Degrees working in the Prime Minister's Office. He does duty for this commission very conscientiously and responsibly. Only in such a way it is possible to interpret the opinions of a numerous group of independent scientists representing educational sciences who have trusted boundlessly in Professor Lewowicki for years, recognizing the scientific esteem of their distinguished representative.

He has prepared a lot of opinions, eg concerning professor titles (55) and postdoctoral degrees (88), in the majority of cases for the Central Commission. He has been a reviewer in postdoctoral programmes in humanities (67 times). He has been a supervisor of nearly 20 PhD programmes.

Co-operation with foreign academic centres plays a very important role in the whole of Professor Lewowicki's activity. He has extensive international contacts, which has resulted in his giving lectures as a visiting professor and also in undergoing training (professoral missions) in many European countries, mainly in Germany, former Czechoslovakia, Austria and the USA. He is a member of foreign scientific associations (among others, the World Association of the Comparative Pedagogy Society) and since 2000 he has participated in the work of UNESCO, among others, in Geneva and Paris.

He is a recognized creator of *scientific school* in the area of intercultural education.

For Professor Lewowicki, intercultural education is a process of a dialogue of cultures, which would protect from globalization and homogenization on the one hand and local nationalism on the other one. Thus, education would be "between" everything that is at the borders and may belong to two overlapping cultures. They would create multicultural attitudes, openness and tolerance, renouncing a sense of cultural superiority in favour of attention to common cultural heritage.

I deeply believe that the ceremony of awarding an honorary doctorate to Professor Lewowicki is a very important and remarkable date adding splendor to the tenth anniversary of the University of Opole. It is also a superb opportunity to show the achievements of Professor Lewowicki's profoundly humanistic thought and the fruit of his indefatigable work. Awarding an honorary doctorate to Professor Lewowicki is undoubtedly the highest distinction for the scientist who has always had the ambition to serve society in a faithful and exemplary way.